

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Limitations on Continuances by Hearing Bodies

**Policy
Number**

I-115

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Purpose

To establish guidelines for County land use decision makers in the determination of whether to grant continuance of hearings.

Background

One of the obstacles to effective streamlined processing is the number of continuances granted by the various hearing bodies on a given project. Continuances can be initiated by the hearing body, the applicant, public members, or staff. They are often needed to allow time for submittal and review of additional information needed by the decision makers; however, without any guidelines or limitations for these continuances, the project is not held to any specific time processing criteria resulting in extended processing times. This policy is a product of the Streamlining Task Force and is intended to require all parties involved in the process to expeditiously resolve controversies and come to closure on the project.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that County land use decision makers, in the conduct of hearings governed by the Rules of Conduct and Procedure for Planning and Zoning Process (County Administrative Code Section 375 and following), be judicious and conservative in the allowance of hearing continuances. While Section 375.6 of that Code permits continuances based upon a showing of good cause, decision makers should balance the factors of good cause against the increased costs and inefficiencies inherent in continuances. Generally, no more than three continuances should be permitted.

Further, where a hearing has been previously continued for the purpose of submittal of additional information or the preparation of documents or reports by the applicant, and the decision maker determines that there has not been reasonable progress towards the completion of that work, the hearing should not again be continued. Rather, in that event, the case should be referred to staff for the preparation of a form of decision denying the application.

Sunset Date

This policy shall be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-03.

Board Action

8-11-92 (17)

CAO Reference

Department of Planning and Land Use